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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT N

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**INFORMATION REPORT****SECRET**

COUNTRY USSR, Germany (Soviet Zone)

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SUBJECT Soviet Army Maneuvers in Germany, 15 - 20 Jul 51

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1. The area of the 15 - 20 Jul 51 maneuvers was located near a flax factory about one kilometer west of Brambach (5013N-1218E), across the River Elbe, in the Loddritz-Kuehnau forests south of the Elbe, and near Zerbst (5158N-1205E), north of the Elbe.
2. Participants in the maneuver were the 57th Guards Rifle Division (friendly forces) which attacked across the Elbe, and the 20th Guards Mechanized Division (hostile forces) which defended the north side of the river. I can't identify any units of the 20th Guards Mechanized Division which took part in the maneuver, but I learned [redacted] [redacted] that the following units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division participated.

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6. After all the units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division arrived at the assembly area at about 2100 hours on 17 Jul, the 932nd Separate AA Battalion marched about 30 to 40 kilometers during the night and stopped in the woods about 800 to 1000 meters from the Elbe. Guns then were prepared for firing, AAA defense set up and positions camouflaged. Regimental and divisional headquarters worked through the night to perfect the plans for the scheduled attack while the troops slept.
7. At approximately 0900 hours on 18 Jul the 17th HT-GP Regiment, the 655th Howitzer Regiment, the 128th Artillery Regiment, and the 64th AT Battalion laid down an artillery barrage (with blank shells) aimed at the other shore of the Elbe. At the same time, the 932nd Separate AAA Battalion simulated fire upon IL-2, MIG-8 and MIG-15 aircraft of the hostile forces. Engineers immediately began to build, under fire, an NLP pontoon bridge of a capacity of 70 tons and three meters wide, across the Elbe. Squads and platoons of the 174th Guards Rifle Regiment crossed the river in Engineer boats. In approximately one hour the pontoon bridge was finished and riflemen of the 174th Guards Rifle Regiment crossed on foot. After the rifle regiment had crossed the river, two batteries of 37 mm guns of the 932nd Separate AAA Battalion were towed across by Studebaker trucks.

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8. During the day, the 57th Guards Rifle Division engaged units of the 20th Guards Mechanized Division, and little by little the defenders retreated; by 1600 hours the 57th Guards Rifle Division had secured its five kilometer bridgehead. The combat was conducted without bayonet charges. After the bridgehead was secured, the maneuver ended.
9. I am certain that all units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division crossed the Elbe in order to secure the bridgehead, leaving no combat reserves. However, rear service units, ie, ordnance, truck repair, field kitchens and food and clothing supply remained on the other side of the river. Food was brought to the troops around 1500 hours by field kitchens.
10. General (fmu) Seryugin, Commanding General of the XXIX Guards Rifle Corps, was in direct command of the maneuvering forces. The following persons also were present and watched the crossing of the maneuver: Genleit (fmu) Goryachev, Commanding General of the 8th Guards Army; GOFG Commanding General Vasiliy Ivanovich Chuikov; and Marshal Ivan Stepanovich Konev, Supreme Inspector, USSR Ground Forces Ministry of Armed Forces.
11. At about 1700 hours on 18 Jul, directly after the end of the maneuver, Marshal Konev conducted a critique. He praised the 57th Guards Rifle Division for doing a good job on the whole, but claimed that there was some delay and confusion in the execution of the planned time-table. He said that the troops were not sufficiently trained and organized for river crossings and that the bridge had been built too slowly. The critique ended at 1900 hours. On 19 and 20 Jul, all units were entrained in Passau and Rosslau, and completed the return to their stations by train within one day.

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Enclosure (A) 15 - 20 July Maneuver Area

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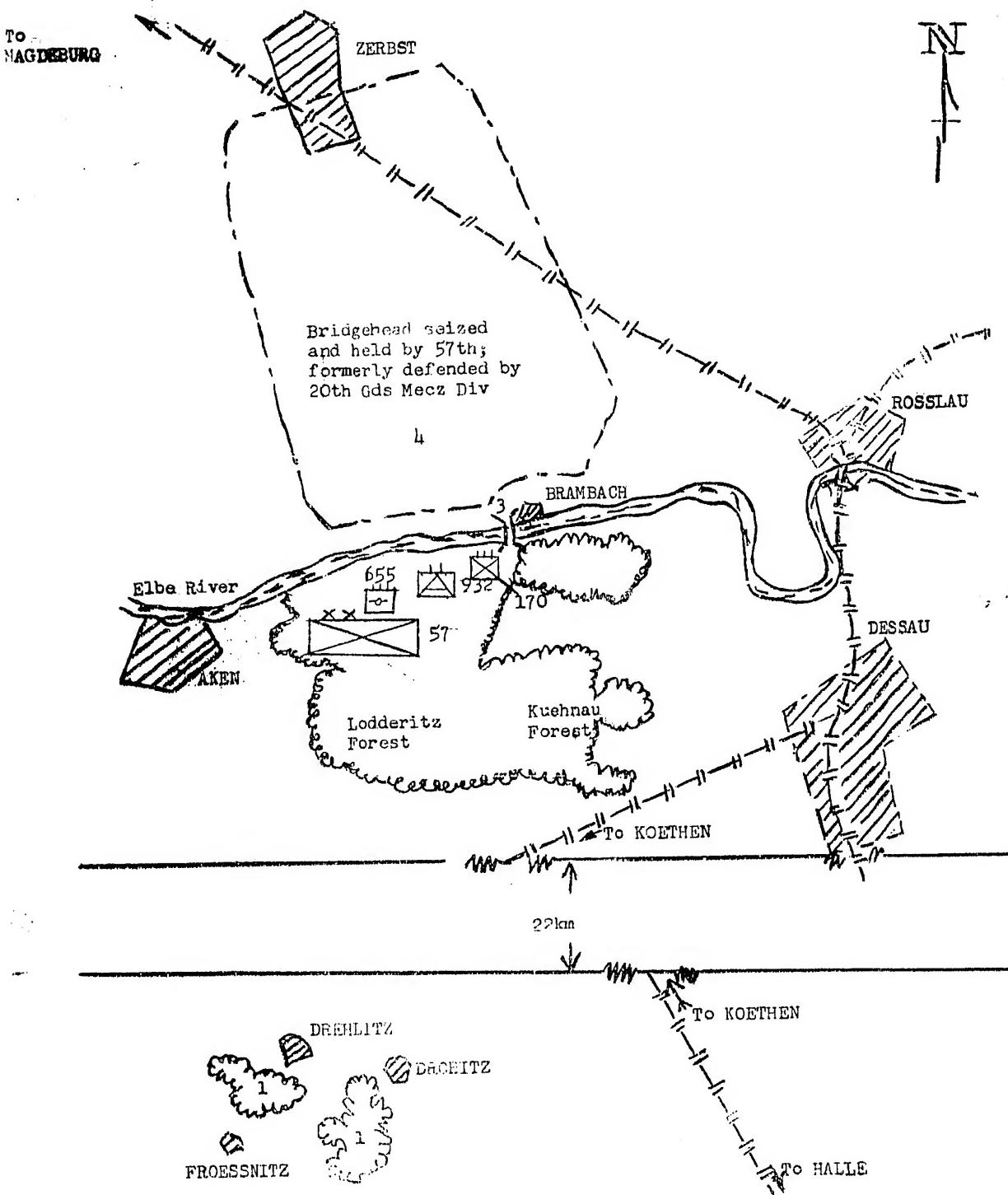
ENCLOSURE (A)

15-2C July 1951 Maneuver Area

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